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Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Addendum

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General of 21 March 1997 containing the proposed budget of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 (A/51/756/Add.2). During its consideration of the report, the Advisory Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General, who provided additional information.

2. UNOMIL was established by the Security Council in its resolution 866 (1993) of 22 September 1993 for an initial period of seven months. Its mandate has since then been extended and adjusted by subsequent resolutions of the Council, the latest being resolution 1100 (1997) of 27 March 1997, in which the Council extended the mandate of the Observer Mission until 30 June 1997.

3. As indicated in paragraph 6 of the report of the Secretary-General, total resources made available to the Observer Mission, from its inception on 22 September 1993 until 30 June 1997, amount to $133,427,300 gross. Estimated expenditure total $99,387,600 gross and credits returned to Member States amount to $34,039,700 gross. Furthermore, $79,134,808 has been assessed on Member States from inception to 31 March 1996, contributions received amount to $74,361,107 and outstanding assessments were reduced by $193,022 in accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/83 of 15 December 1995.

4. The cost estimate for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998 amounts to $19,688,400 gross ($18,159,600 net). This estimate is $12,226,600 gross lower than the amount of $31,915,000 gross, the cost estimate for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997. As indicated in the summary of the Secretary-General's report, the reduction is due primarily to the elimination of requirements for disarmament and demobilization programme which has been completed. The breakdown of the estimate is presented in annex I to the Secretary-General's report (A/51/756/Add.2) along with supplementary information contained in annex II.

5. The cost estimate provides for the gradual reduction from 323 to 108 posts, consisting of 56 international staff, 39 local staff and 13 United Nations Volunteers, as indicated in paragraph 14 of the Secretary-General's report (A/51/756/Add.2). The reductions are due to the closing of the 10 remaining demobilization centres as well as to the phased reduction of the military component during the budgeted period.

6. With regard to costs for the election operation, the Advisory Committee recalls that in the Secretary-General's

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report, it was indicated that resource requirements for the electoral component of UNOMIL would be presented to the General Assembly at a later date. By its letter dated 21 April 1997, the Advisory Committee concurred in the Secretary-General's request to enter into commitments in an amount not exceeding $1.8 million gross for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997 in connection with the electoral process in Liberia, on the understanding that the related expenditures would be met from within existing resources. The Advisory Committee was subsequently informed that should there be a postponement or delay in the holding of the elections, potential costs not exceeding $500,000 would arise but that those would be met from the resources for the period from 1 July 1996 to 30 June 1997.

7. The Advisory Committee notes that the estimates for this period do not contain liquidation costs.

8. With respect to the proposals of the Secretary-General in paragraph 16 of his report, the Advisory Committee recommends that the General Assembly approve the appropriation of $19,688,400 gross ($18,159,600 net) to be assessed at a monthly rate of $1,640,700 gross ($1,513,300 net) for the maintenance of the Observer Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, subject to the extension of the mandate of UNOMIL by the Security Council. In this connection, the Advisory Committee requests that in the event that the Mission is liquidated after 30 June 1997, adequate personnel should be made available to carry out the liquidation process efficiently.